

WORLD EXPO 2025 NEWS 「KIZUNA – 絆 – News letter」

“Kizuna” is the Japanese word for “bond.”

Issued November 20, 2024, Vol.30



The Forest of Tranquillity was conceived as one of the symbols of Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan. Mr. FUJIMOTO Sou and I are the producers in charge of the project. This Expo will not only revolve around artifacts that symbolize technological development, but also aims to create ecosystems together with diverse forms of life. We brought trees from nearby forests that were scheduled for thinning, regenerating them into the Forest of Tranquillity, which continues to grow as we speak. As an initiative for co-creating our future together with various forms of life, we plan to hold discussion events at the Forest of Tranquillity in coordination with Expo Theme Weeks. We welcome ideas for events from other members, so feel free to reach out to us if you are interested. Naturally, we look forward to seeing you at the venue too!

**MIYATA Hiroaki, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Keio University
Theme Producer, Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan**

*****_***** 【Contents of this week's report】 *****_*****

1. Movements of Participating Countries

November 12: Australia holds completion ceremony for the main structure of its pavilion

November 13: Portugal unveils its official website, Mr. KUMA Kengo explains the Portugal Pavilion's design on the website

November 14: Lithuania and Latvia present an overview of their Baltic Pavilion

November 15: Belgium names its pavilion mascot BeluBelu Belgian Commissioner-General De Crem and Ambassador Evrard have a meeting with Minister for the World Expo 2025 ITO

2. This week /last week's main events

November 12: Tokyu Railways begins service of trains wrapped in an Expo design

November 14: KOBUKURO performs the Expo theme song at the Ring for *Best Hits Kayosai 2024*

November 15: Additional detailed information on Expo venue commercial facilities published on the official app EXPO 2025 Visitors

November 16: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition announces a collaborative project between Tamagotchi and MYAKU-MYAKU

November 17: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition, Niigata Prefecture, and Itoigawa City announce a display of jade gemstones, which are a specialty of Itoigawa City

November 18: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition announces the Best Practices at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan

November 18: Japan Association for the 2025 World Exposition unveils collaborative products between Hachiemon and MYAKU-MYAKU

November 22: China International Travel Mart 2024 (CITM2024) in Shanghai, China (November 22–24)

November 23: EXPO PLAYPARK at Aeon Mall Hiroshimagion (November 23–24)

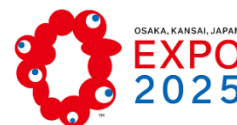
November 28: “Expo Classroom in Morinomiya University of Medical Sciences”

3. Ticket Sales Update

Tickets sold: 7,317,611 (as of November 13, 2024)



Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan Weekly Report (November 12 - November 18) ~ 145 days to go!~



1. Official Participants

- November 15; Belgium announced that it would name the character of the pavilion of Belgium BELUBELU. On the same day, the Expo Minister Yoshihiko Ito met with Commissioner General Pieter De Crem and Ambassador of Belgium to Japan Antonine Evrard. They confirmed to steadily progress of the Belgium pavilion.



https://x.com/BE_Pavilion/status/1857402331823825262?t=1edldT_FpFN60j-VS9Qsjw&s=19

- November 14; Lithuania and Latvia announced the outline of their joint pavilion, the Baltic Pavilion. Under the concept of We Are One, the pavilion will combine technology, nature, and human cooperation to create a two-way exhibition. Visitors can leave messages on the green display, Wall of the Future, in the center of the pavilion.



<https://www.bie-paris.org/site/en/newsletters/newsletter-15-november-2024>

- November 13; Portugal opened its official Expo website contains information on the pavilion, and shops. Architect Kengo Kuma explains the design of the pavilion in a video on the website.



<https://portugalexpo2025.pt/en/pavilion/>



- November 12; Australia held a ceremony to celebrate the completion, or topping out, of the main structure of the pavilion. A Christmas tree is being decorated at the top of the building.



https://x.com/australiaatexpo/status/1856191987483062291?t=fNJiShS_x2qIyfd_6tRKkw&s=19

Status of the 170 official participants as of November 14

- 161 countries and 9 international organisations:

Those with official participation agreements:

138 countries and 6 international organisations

Individually-allocated pavilions: 68 countries and 3 international organisations

Shared pavilions: 98 countries and 6 international organisations

2. Reports from the past week and plans for the upcoming week

- November 14; Kobukuro, a singer-songwriter duo and Expo Ambassador, performed the official Expo theme song at the Grand Ring. The performance was broadcast on Yomiuri TV/Nippon Television Network as part of the 'Best Hit Kayousai 2024' programme, along with a singing performance by popular artists Aina the End and Number i at the Grand Ring. This was the first time that a music performance had been held on the Expo site.



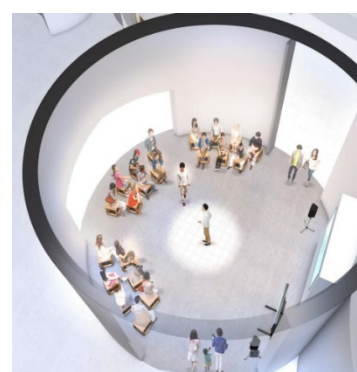
- November 15; The Association has added the second batch (11 establishments) of detailed information about commercial facilities in the Expo site to the official app EXPO 2025 Visitors. Restaurants and cafes, shops selling local products from Osaka and convenience stores have been newly announced.

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241115-07/>





- November 18; The Association announced 25 projects as Best Practices to be featured at the Expo. Experts have selected high-quality projects that solve global issues from among the applications received from worldwide. These projects will be on permanent display at the Expo venue during the event. Of the 25 projects, 16 are from outside Japan.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/news/news-20241118-01/>



- November 17; The Association, Niigata Prefecture and City of Itoigawa have jointly announced that Itoigawa's specialty, the gemstone jade, will be displayed at the Expo venue. During the event, two large jade gemstones will be placed in the Forest of Tranquility and will be displayed at the Guest House.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241118-02/>



- November 12; Tokyu Corporation started operating a wrapping train to promote the Expo. The service section is the Minato Mirai Line -Tokyu Toyoko Line - Tokyo Metro Fukutoshin Line - Seibu Ikebukuro Line and Tobu Tojo Line.



<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241111-03/>



- November 16; The Association announced a collaboration project between Bandai's character Tamagotchi and Myaku-Myaku.



<https://expo2025mlo.jp/news/604>



- November 18; The Association announced a collaboration product between Kansai TV's character Hachiemon and Myaku-Myaku. Scheduled to go on sale on November 22.



<https://expo2025mlo.jp/news/609>



3. Upcoming events

- November 22 - 24; China International Tourism Mart (CITM2024) at Shanghai, China
- November 23 - 24; "It's more than you can imagine! Turn! EXPO PLAYPARK" at Aeon Mall in Hiroshima Prefecture
<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/news/news-20241115-04/>
- November 28; Expo Classroom in Morinomiya Medical University based in Osaka



For further information on Expo 2025:

<https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/>



4. Ticket sales

Number of tickets sold: 7,317,611 as of November 13, 2024